



Geneva Thematic Consultations for the 2020 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture

Background Note

In resolutions A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016), the General Assembly and the Security Council called for a “comprehensive review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture (UNPBA) to be conducted during the 74th session of the General Assembly”. UN Member States, under the auspices of the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), elaborated Terms of Reference for the review. They agreed that the review should take stock of the work done by the United Nations on peacebuilding and called for a forward-looking review, aimed at further improving the capacity of the architecture to effectively support efforts to build and sustain peace.

The resolutions emphasize the importance of a comprehensive approach to “sustaining peace”, wherein “respect for, and protection of, human rights and fundamental freedoms” are an integral component and reaffirm that “development, peace and security, and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing”. The UN Secretary-General was tasked by the General Assembly to submit a detailed report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in connection with the review. This report, which will be the main input to the review, is expected in mid-2020.

To feed into the UNPBA review process, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, in partnership with Switzerland will facilitate a consultative process among relevant stakeholders in Geneva. The consultations aim to gather the perspectives, experiences, and recommendations of stakeholders that operate primarily out of International Geneva. Representatives of Member States, Geneva-based International Organizations, International Civil Society Organizations, the Private Sector and Academia are invited to participate.

The consultative process is composed of three elements: An opening session for all stakeholders, a technical session for experts from International Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations and Academia, as well as a closing session for all stakeholders and the interested public.

The Geneva thematic consultations will focus specifically on concrete examples of policy and operational coherence linking peace and security, development and human rights, as well as partnerships for peacebuilding and sustaining peace. In addition to plenary discussions in the opening and technical sessions, five specific break-out groups will shed light on the role of human rights in sustaining peace, meaningful women participation, governance-driven approaches to security, peace-responsive programming to operationalize sustaining peace across the system, as well as the role of integrated analysis to enable coherent action on humanitarian, development, peace and security challenges.



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Opening Session

Tuesday, 18 February 2020 | Palais des Nations, Room XXIII

09.30 – 10.00 Coffee

--- Welcome ---

Moderation: Achim Wennmann, *Executive Coordinator, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform*

10.00 – 10.15 Welcome Remarks

Speakers: Valentin Zellweger, *Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the UNOG and other International Organizations in Geneva*

Thomas Guerber, *Director, Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF), on behalf of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform*

--- Presentations ---

Moderation: Achim Wennmann, *Executive Coordinator, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform*

10.15 – 10.25 Overview of the PBA Review Process and the Role of Thematic Consultations

Speaker: Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, *ASG for Peacebuilding Support, United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (UNDPPA)*

10.25 – 10.35 Taking Stock of the Peacebuilding Architecture

Speaker: Rosa Otunbayeva, *Member of the Independent Eminent Persons on the 2020 Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture*

10.35 – 10.45 Challenges to Peace and Security in the New Decade

Speaker: Nasser Judeh, *Member of the Independent Eminent Persons on the 2020 Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture*



--- Plenary Discussion---

Moderation: Leslie Norton, *Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Canada to the UNOG and other International Organizations in Geneva*

10.45 – 12.30 “Operational/Policy Coherence and Partnerships to Build Peace: What are the Main Stakes for Geneva-based Actors?”

Guiding Questions:

1. To what extent have the so-called twin resolutions on the “Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture” (A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016) and the recommendations contained in the Secretary General’s report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace (S/2018/43) been implemented and where is implementation still missing?
2. What contributions do Geneva-based stakeholders make to prevent the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict? What can we learn from their practical experience with a view to peacebuilding and sustaining peace in all its dimensions?
3. How can Geneva-based stakeholders contribute to operational and policy coherence across the Peace and Security, Development and Human Rights pillars?
4. How can partnerships for sustaining peace be further strengthened, how can synergies and complementarity be enhanced, and what contributions can Geneva-based stakeholders make in this regard?